

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chairman Mike Milburn, on February 18, 2009 at
3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Mike Milburn, Chairman (R)
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Tony Belcourt (D)
Rep. Gerald Bennett (R)
Rep. Anders Blewett (D)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)
Rep. Brian Hoven (R)
Rep. Tom McGillvray (R)
Rep. Mike Menahan (D)
Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)
Rep. Mike Miller (R)
Rep. Michele Reinhart (D)
Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)
Rep. Wendy Warburton (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Shirley Chovanak, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 423, HB 424, HB 425, HB 448, HB
502, HB 535

Executive Action: None

00:02:00 Chairman Milburn

HEARING ON HB 535

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:33 Rep. Wayne Stahl (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 535, Require bonding for certain gas wells.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:12:14 Richard Parks, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:13:32 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association
00:15:08 Bruce Williams, Fidelity Exploration and Production Company
00:17:40 Patrick Montalban, Northern Montana Oil and Gas Association

Informational Testimony:

00:23:34 Tom Richmond, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:24:43 Rep. Belcourt
00:25:14 Mr. Montalban
00:25:24 Rep. Belcourt
00:25:30 Mr. Montalban
00:25:55 Rep. Belcourt
00:26:18 Mr. Montalban
00:27:09 Rep. Bennett
00:27:27 Mr. Richmond
00:29:55 Rep. Reinhart
00:30:29 Julia Page, NPRC
00:31:31 Rep. Reinhart
00:31:57 Rep. Stahl
00:33:52 Rep. Reinhart
00:34:03 Rep. Stahl
00:34:26 Rep. Reinhart
00:34:31 Rep. Stahl

Closing by Sponsor:

00:34:40 Rep. Stahl

HEARING ON HB 425

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:42:20 Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on
HB 425, Public notice for oil/gas leases on state land.
EXHIBIT(nah38a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:51:38 Corey Fisher, Trout Unlimited (TU)

EXHIBIT(nah38a02)

00:55:12 Jerry Iverson, Rancher, Sweetgrass County

00:56:09 William Geer, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
Partnership

EXHIBIT(nah38a03)

00:58:06 Cary Fee, TU

01:00:14 Tim Aldrich, Montana Wildlife Federation

01:01:15 Will Murray, Lewis & Clark Chapter, TU

01:02:20 Michael Gibson, TU

Opponents' Testimony:

01:04:09 Mr. Galt

01:08:05 Mr. Montalban

01:12:41 Mr. Williams

Informational Testimony:

01:13:59 Joe Lamson, DNRC

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:17:36 Rep. Van Dyk

01:18:24 Mr. Lamson

01:19:38 Rep. Van Dyk

01:20:17 Mr. Lamson

01:20:47 Rep. Van Dyk

01:21:43 Mr. Lamson

01:22:46 Rep. Hoven

01:23:04 Mr. Lamson

01:23:36 Rep. Hoven

01:23:47 Mr. Lamson

01:23:51 Rep. Hoven

01:24:00 Mr. Lamson

01:24:02 Rep. Hoven

01:24:15 Mr. Lamson

01:24:48 Rep. Hoven

01:24:56 Mr. Lamson
01:25:01 Rep. Belcourt
01:25:31 Mr. Montalban
01:25:42 Rep Belcourt
01:25:51 Mr. Montalban
01:26:15 Rep. Reinhart
01:26:25 Mr. Fisher

[EXHIBIT](#)(nah38a04)

Closing by Sponsor:

01:31:36 Rep. Pomnichowski

HEARING ON HB 448

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:37:45 Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 448, Revise state land law relating to inventory and classification.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

01:43:32 Mr. Galt
[EXHIBIT](#)(nah38a05)
01:46:02 Mr. Williams
01:47:48 Mr. Montalban
01:48:45 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSA)
01:50:46 Tim Ravndal, Montana Multiple Use Association
01:51:28 Willy Duffield, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties

Informational Testimony:

01:52:00 Mr. Lamson

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:52:52 Rep. Miller
01:53:12 Mr. Lamson
01:53:53 Kevin Chappell (DNRC)

Closing by Sponsor:

01:54:28 Rep. Pomnichowski

HEARING ON HB 424

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:58:48 Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on
HB 424, Revise state land law to clarify public
information.

EXHIBIT (nah38a06)

Proponents' Testimony:

02:02:01 Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center
(MEIC)

EXHIBIT (nah38a07)

Opponents' Testimony:

02:04:46 Mr. Galt
02:08:17 Mr. Williams
02:08:58 Mr. Montalban
02:10:29 Debbie Shea, Montana Mining Association
02:11:52 Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association
02:14:26 Mr. Ravndal
02:15:37 Mr. Duffield

Informational Testimony:

02:16:16 Mr. Lamson
02:17:43 Mr. Richmond

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:18:50 Rep. Miller
02:19:25 Mr. Galt
02:19:51 Mr. Richmond
02:21:22 Rep. Belcourt
02:21:57 Mr. Richmond
02:22:00 Rep. Belcourt
02:22:04 Rep. Hoven
02:23:00 Rep. Pomnichowski
02:23:46 Rep. Miller
02:23:57 Rep. Pomnichowski
02:24:29 Rep. Miller
02:24:36 Rep. Pomnichowski
02:24:49 Rep. Miller
02:24:55 Rep. Pomnichowski

Closing by Sponsor:

02:25:08 Rep. Pomnichowski

HEARING ON HB 423

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:26:46 Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on
HB 423, Revise state land law relating to oil and gas
leases.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

02:30:32 Mr. Montalban
02:32:03 Mr. Williams
02:35:55 Mr. Galt
02:36:41 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy
[EXHIBIT \(nah38a08\)](#)
02:39:58 Mr. Puyear
02:41:29 Mr. Duffield
02:41:57 Mr. Ravndal

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:43:20 Rep. Cohenour
02:43:44 Rep. Pomnichowski
02:44:01 Rep. Hands
02:44:23 Rep. Pomnichowski
02:45:58 Rep. Hands
02:46:20 Rep. Pomnichowski

Closing by Sponsor:

02:46:37 Rep. Pomnichowski

02:48:22 Break
03:00:31 Reconvene

HEARING ON HB 502

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

03:01:47 Rep. Mike Phillips (D), HD 66, opened the hearing on HB 502, Revise fossil fuel development laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

03:11:59 Mike Volesky, Governor's Office

[EXHIBIT\(nah38a09\)](#)

03:30:13 Mr. Parks

03:31:27 Kyla Wiens, MEIC

[EXHIBIT\(nah38a10\)](#)

03:36:00 Wade Sikorski

Opponents' Testimony:

03:36:39 Leo Berry, Attorney, Representative, Great Northern Properties

03:42:52 Candace Payne, Southern Montana Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative

03:46:32 Mr. Galt

03:48:33 John Bloomquist, MSA

03:51:03 Mark Lambrecht, PPL Montana

[EXHIBIT\(nah38a11\)](#)

03:53:04 Nancy Schlepp, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

03:53:57 Haley Beaudry, Mining Engineer

03:55:06 Mr. Duffield

03:55:52 Mr. Ravndal

03:56:20 Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Association

Informational Testimony:

03:56:46 Mr. Richmond

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:58:24 Rep. Dickenson

03:58:47 Rep. Phillips

03:59:20 Rep. Reinhart

03:59:35 Rep. Phillips

03:59:48 Rep. Reinhart

04:00:19 Rep. Phillips

04:00:29 Rep. Reinhart

04:00:51 Rep. Phillips

04:01:13 Rep. Reinhart

04:01:19 Rep. Phillips

04:02:14 Rep. Reinhart

04:02:24 Rep. Phillips
04:02:48 Rep. McGillvray
04:03:19 Mr. Berry
04:04:15 Rep. McGillvray
04:04:28 Mr. Berry
04:04:56 Rep. McGillvray
04:05:31 Rep. Phillips
04:06:19 Rep. Van Dyk
04:07:54 Rep. Phillips
04:10:52 Rep. Vincent
04:11:55 Ms. Wiens
04:12:45 Rep. Vincent
04:13:03 Ms. Wiens
04:13:05 Rep. Vincent
04:13:11 Ms. Wiens
04:13:26 Rep. Vincent
04:14:19 Rep. Phillips
04:15:24 Rep. Vincent
04:15:34 Rep. Phillips
04:16:24 Rep. Vincent
04:16:48 Rep. Phillips
04:17:08 Rep. Vincent
04:17:32 Rep. Phillips
04:18:56 Rep. Vincent
04:19:57 Rep. Phillips
04:20:01 Rep. Vincent
04:20:06 Rep Phillips
04:20:10 Rep. Vincent
04:20:25 Rep. Phillips
04:21:52 Rep. Mendenhall
04:24:00 Rep. Phillips
04:25:38 Rep. Mendenhall
04:25:59 Rep. Phillips
04:27:24 Rep. McGillvray
04:28:23 Rep. Phillips
04:30:16 Rep. Cohenour
04:30:50 Rep. Phillips
04:32:15 Rep. Cohenour
04:33:03 Chairman Milburn
04:33:24 Rep. Hendrick
04:34:02 Rep. Phillips

Closing by Sponsor:

04:34:53 Rep. Phillips

ADJOURNMENT

04:36:16 Adjournment: 7:40 P.M.

Shirley Chovanak, Secretary

Additional Documents
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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([nah38aad.pdf](#))